

their background perhaps made them even better Justices.

President Obama was elected in a historic election, where the American people turned pages of history to forge a new path for our Nation. It is a new path shaped by common sense and compassion and belief in the potential of our people and the greatness of our Nation. The Supreme Court is a vital part of this path forward.

Exercising one of his most important powers, President Obama nominated someone who will help ensure that our Supreme Court honors the Constitution and that every American is protected by it.

President Obama said:

What she will bring to this court is not only the knowledge and experience acquired over the course of a brilliant legal career, but the wisdom accumulated from an inspiring life journey.

I congratulate Judge Sotomayor, her mother Celina, and the rest of the Sotomayor family. I also congratulate Justice David Souter on his well-earned retirement. Justice Souter's probing intellect and brilliant legal mind deserve our Nation's sincere thanks and gratitude.

Commitment to the rule of law is the foundation of our Nation, where democratic values are enshrined in the Constitution that preserves and strengthens our basic freedom. As Senators, one of our most important Constitutional responsibilities is to confirm a Justice of the Supreme Court. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in confirming Judge Sonia Sotomayor as the next Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thank you. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### FLOODING IN LOUISVILLE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to make a few short observations about a severe storm that hit my hometown and dumped 6 inches of rain in 75 minutes in Louisville just today, causing major flooding and trapping people in their cars and in their neighborhoods. The Louisville Police and

Fire and Rescue have been working nonstop since early this morning to assist those in need. I wish to commend them for the courageous and outstanding work they have been performing throughout the day.

Not surprisingly, I have heard from a number of my constituents. I appreciate very much their calls to keep me informed on the latest developments. We are going to continue to monitor the situation back home. In the meantime, our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone in Louisville today.

#### COMMENDING THE SIMPSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the Simpson County Historical Society, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in September, making it one of the oldest continuously operating historical societies in Kentucky.

The society's half century of promoting research and knowledge of history makes it one of south-central Kentucky's treasures. At the society's very first meeting in 1959, 37 individuals met in a private home to discuss the creation of the organization.

For many years the society maintained a small collection at the Goodnight Library until members convinced the county to let them use the old county jail and jailer's house as a headquarters. The facility now serves as the Simpson County Archives and Museum. Their collection contains thousands of items, including books, manuscripts, original documents and papers, pictures, county records, tapes, CDs, microfilm, microfiche, computers, and more.

The research materials, librarians and volunteers at the archives have helped thousands of visitors connect to their past and learn about their genealogy.

The dedicated staff and volunteers at the society have made it very successful. In 2006, Mary Garrett, Nancy Neely, Sarah Richardson, Sarah Smith, Beatrice Snider, Margaret Snider, and Dorothy Steers received the Lifetime Presidential Volunteer Service Awards for over 4,000 hours of volunteer service.

The group not only preserves history, but gives much to the community, for instance by supporting several historical markers in Simpson County and providing grants for schools and groups interested in preserving history. They also offer scholarships for students who want to study history.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, as listed below, the society and their officers for their hard work and dedication to the preservation and research of Kentucky's and Simpson County's history over the past 50 years and for many more years to come:

#### SIMPSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS—2009

President Dr. James Henry Snider, Vice-President Jean Almand, Secretary Jason

Herring, Assistant Secretary Bonnye Moody, Treasurer Commie Jo Hall, Librarian Kenny Lynn Scott, Directors Katherine McCutchen, Emily Mayes, Sarah Jernigan, Past President and Business Manager Sarah Jo Cardwell, Gayla Coates, Nancy Thomas, Commie Jo Hall, Morris Hester, Betty Nolan, Elizabeth Wakefield, Allison Cummings, Helen Cardwell, and Stacie Goosetree

#### SIMPSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS

Myrtle Alexander, Kathy Allen (Dinning), David Forrest Almand, Jean Almand, Margaret Beach, Roxanne Boyer, Lucille Brown, Jean Burton, Barry Byrd, Bill Byrd, Helen Cardwell, Ruth Cardwell, Sarah Jo Cardwell, Pattye Caudill, Billy Jeff Cherry, Ruth Cherry, Liz Chisholm, Jim Clark, Gayla Coates, Sue Cooper, Irene Harding Cornett, Joe Craft, Nettie Craft, Mary Crow, Allison Cummings, Elizabeth Dinning, Elizabeth Dunn, Ruth Forshee, Jackie Forshee, Kathy Forshee, Larry Forshee, Mary Garrett, Paul Garrett, Addie Gillespie, Nora Belle Gillespie, Cheryl Goodlad, Stacie Goosetree, Kay Gregath, John Gregory, Commie Jo Hall, Janet Head, Jason Herring, Jimmy Jennett, Tracy Jennett, Dorothy Jent, Earl Jent, Amy Kepley, Ricky Kepley, Donna Laser, Mary Malone, Emily Martin, Emily Mayes, Charles McCutchen, Katherine McCutchen, Hallie McFarland, Mary Rose Meador, Lowrie Mervine, Peggy Mervine, Betty Milliken, Edna Milliken, Thomas N. Moody, Anne Mullikin, Nancy Neely, Tom Scott Neely, Dorothy Newbold, Mary Ogles, Olaine Owen, Mildred Perry, Jo Ann Phillips, Marian Phillips, Ruth Richards, Mozelle Richardson, Sarah Richardson, Wendell Richardson, Mattie Lou Riggins, Janet Roark, Betty Rogers, Lou Ella Rutherford, Edna Earl Scott, Kenny Lynn Scott, Ellen Smith, Henry Price Smith, Sarah Smith, Billy Briggs Snider, Beatrice Snider, James D. Snider, Margaret Snider, Lori Snider, James Henry Snider, D. B. Snider, Pearl Snider, Dorothy Steers, Geraldine "Jerri" Stewart, Rowena Sullivan, Robert E. Taylor, Nancy Thomas, Jane Truelove, L. L. Valentine, Dan Ware, Bessie Watwood, Alisha Westmoreland, Michelle Willis, Christine Wilburn, Geraldine Wright, Joan Yorgason.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I was unable to participate in the rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Kohl substitute amendment, No. 1908, to H.R. 2997, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010 and on the rollcall vote on amendment No. 1910 introduced by Senator McCain. Both rollcall votes took place yesterday.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea in support of the motion to invoke cloture and yea in support of Senator McCain's amendment. The McCain amendment would have cut \$17.5 million set aside for the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grant Program—a program that was eliminated in President Obama's fiscal year 2010 budget.

I commend the chairman of the subcommittee, Senator KOHL, and the ranking member, Senator BROWNBACK, for their bipartisan work on this important bill that will fund agriculture priorities, nutrition assistance programs, and food and drug safety measures that are critical for my State of